(e) The following measures have been taken in the matter

(i) FIRs have been filed with the police authorities

(ii) Surveillance has been increase to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic

(iii) Dedicated CBI cells have been set up in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom related frauds

(iv) Department of Telecom has issued instructions/guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/frauds

(v) Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups

(vi) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders

Due to above actions 184 such cases have been successfully unearthed by CBI/DoT/Police authorities/service providers so far

Reduction in ISD/STD rates

2424 SHRI LALIT SURI Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether BSNL have recently reduced the rates of ISD and STD calls,

(b) if so, the details thereof *vis-a-vis* earlier rates,

(c) whether MTNL has not offered similar reduction in rates thereby depriving the subscribers of Delhi and Mumbai of reduction in rates,

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) by when, MTNL is likely to similarly reduce the rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SHAKEEL AHMAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have reduced their ISD and STD tariff *w e f* 10 4 2004 The details of ISD tariff of BSNL are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below) STD tariff for a distance

more than 200 kms. has been reduced from Rs. 4.80 per minute to Rs. 3.60 per minute.

(c) to (e) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have reduced their ISD tariff with effect from 10.4.2004. The details are in the Annexure. This reduction by MTNL is not similar to that of by BSNL. ISD/STD tariffs have been put under forbearance by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), thereby every service provider, including MTNL and BSNL, has been given freedom to fix its own ISD and STD tariffs. MTNL has fixed its tariff for various services, keeping in view its cost of providing the services, TRAI guidelines, competitors' tariffs and market situation. Moreover, MTNL, unlike BSNL which is an integrated service provider providing long distance services also, is only an access service provider and has to pay certain amount to other operators to route its ISD/STD calls.

Statement

BSNL's ISD tariff prior to 10.4.2004

Country	Rupees per minute
SAARC and other neighbouring countries	21.18
Countries in Africa, Gulf, Oceania & Asia except Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	24
Countries in the American Continent & other places in Western Hemisphere except USA and Canada	24
UK	7.20
USA, Canada and all countries in Europe except UK	9.60
Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	12

BSNL's ISD tariff w.e.f. 10.4.2004

Country	Rupees per minute
USA/Canada/UK	7.20
Europe other than UK, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia & Hong Kong	9.60
Rest of World	18

MTNL's ISD tariff prior to 10.4.2004

Country	Rupees per minute
Singapore/Malaysia/Hong Kong/Indonesia/Thailand	12
Countries in Africa, Gulf, Asia & Oceania	24
USA/UK/Canada/Europe	9.60
Rest of World	24

MTNL's ISD tariff w.e.f. 10.4.2004

Country	Rupees per minute
USA/UK/Canada/Singapore/Malaysia/Hong Kong/ Indonesia/Thailand/and countries with 001 access	9
Gulf/Africa & Rest of the World	18

Foreign Investment

†2425. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the investment made by foreign companies in the field of communication network development in various States of the country;

(b) the number of proposals received from the foreign companies by Government in the field of communication in North-Eastern States during the last three years and the number of proposals sanctioned therefrom; and

(c) the target set for investment during the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan period in this regard and the details of the investment actually made, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) made by foreign companies in the field of communication network development in various States of the country is about Rs. 9988 crore from August, 1991 to June, 2004.

(b) Details of the number of proposals received from foreign companies in the field of communication are not maintained State-wise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.